

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 23 and 27-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for including expressions (i.e., “ingress port”, “egress port”) that are not mentioned in the specification.

Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0112072 to Jain (“Jain”). In addition, Claims 21-22, 24, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jain in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,775,239 to Akita et al. (“Akita”) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,424,629 to Rubino et al. (“Rubino”). Furthermore, Claim 25 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jain in view of Akita, Rubino, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,810,046 to Abbas et al. (“Abbas”).

Claims 1-2 and 4-7 have been allowed. In addition, the Examiner has objected to Claims 29-30 as being dependent on a rejected base claim (i.e., Claim 28), but would allow these claims if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicant thanks the Examiner accordingly.

Claim 2 has been amended to correct a typographical error. In particular, the expression “said MPLS second communication network” has been corrected to recite “said second MPLS communication network.”

Claims 20-30 have been cancelled.

Please note that Claims 20-30 have been cancelled without prejudice. The Applicant reserves the right to pursue these cancelled claims in a continuing application or otherwise.

No new matter has been entered by these amendments.

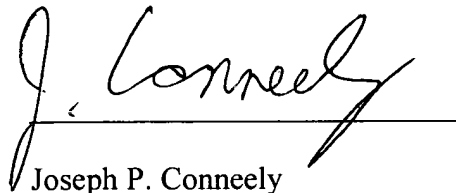
The Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

McCarthy Tétrault LLP

Date: April 7, 2006

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Conneely", is written over a horizontal line.

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